

CHARLES E. BENNETT
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3D DISTRICT, FLORIDA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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TELEPHONE 904-791-2587

JOHN W. POLLARD, JR.
ERENDA DONALDSON

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3958

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 20, 1978

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SECRETARIES

Mr. Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

ACTION-
is assigned to

ARA

Dear Mr. Bennet:

I am writing to you regarding Mrs. Ana C. E. de Ricci who contacted me concerning the disappearance of her son, Eduardo Luis Ricci. In your June 6 letter to me you indicated the Department had cabled the American Embassy in Buenos Aires and that you would get back in touch with me. Anything you can promptly and properly do in this matter so I may be back in touch with Mrs. de Ricci would be greatly appreciated. May I please hear from you?

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Charles F. Bennett

CFB:lm

cc: Mrs. Ana C. E. de Ricci

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE *4/20/82*
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June 6 1978

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 1978 concerning the disappearance of Eduardo Luis Ricci.

The Department has cabled our Embassy in Buenos Aires to make a request at the Argentine Foreign Ministry Working Group on Human Rights, about Mr. Ricci. As soon as we have word I will let you know.

The information that Mrs. de Ricci received from Ambassador Castro about having the case presented by a United States Congressman is correct. The Embassy feels that being able to present the request for information to the Argentine Government about a missing Argentine citizen is given greater impact if the request has been made by a member of Congress.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations.

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned.

The Honorable
Charles E. Bennett,
House of Representatives

May 12, 1978

Chief, Congressional Liaison
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Gentlemen:

I enclose herein a copy of a letter coming to me from John Chandler, a prominent businessman in Jacksonville, and a copy of a letter from Mrs. de Ricci. I would appreciate it if you could let me know what if anything could be done to help in this situation. I suspect that Mrs. de Ricci was misinformed when she understood that she had to approach this matter through a U.S. Congressman, but that is not an important matter. The important issue is what, if anything, can the federal government do to assist in this matter.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Charles E. Bennett

CEB:ky
Enclosure

JOHN B. CHANDLER COMPANY.

PAPER MAIL

P.O. BOX 1111
ATLANTA, GE
FLORIDA 30301
COUNTRY
TELEPHONE

May 8, 1978.

Congressman Charles Bennett
2113 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-

Dear Charlie:

I have just returned from a visit to our Sister City, Bahia Blanca, Argentina, accompanied by Mayor Hans Tanzler and our wives. We have had Bahia Blanca as a Sister City for 10 years, and have developed some very close personal relationships there.

During that visit I was approached by an old friend, Ana de Ricci. She told me that approximately a year ago, her son, 21 years old, was kidnapped. Although she says that this boy was not involved in any political actions, that she feels that he was taken by government forces.

Because of President Carter's interest in human rights, she went to our Ambassador, Raul Castro, to see if he could intervene to get some word on the whereabouts of the boy. She does not feel, of course, that the U.S. government can get him returned to her. However, she feels that her "human rights" require that she be advised of his whereabouts, and any charges which may be against him.

As you will note from her letter, which I am enclosing, Ambassador Castro advised her that he could not proceed in this affair unless the request came from an American Congressman.

I am really transmitting this letter to you, and not taking a personal stand on the guilt or innocence of the boy. However, I think you will agree that if he is being held by government forces, the mother is entitled to know where he is, and what the charges are against him. I know that we have made big progress by intervening in the affairs of the government of Chile, in matters of this nature. Consequently I feel that it would be worthwhile to do the same sort of thing in Argentina.

Charles Bennett

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It seems that I have a penchant for getting involved in foreign kidnapping. However, I know from experience that you are a very considerate and just individual. I hope that you will handle this according to the dictates of your conscience. With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

John S. Chandler
John S. Chandler
President

JSC:cm

P.S.: This is an excellent example of what the Sister City Association is all about!

Please reply to:
Mrs. Ana C. B. de Ricci
Villorino 163
2009 Bahía Blanca
Argentina

April 17th., 1978

Rep. Mr. Charles Bennet
Florida
U.S.A.

Sir,

Your name was given to me by a very kind American friend.

I am writing to you because my son Eduardo Luis Ricci, 21, was kidnapped on 30th. March, 1977; and I was told, at the American Embassy, that Ambassador Raúl Castro could deal with this affair only in case the information was sent to him through an American Congressman.

My son was kidnapped in La Plata, the capital of our province, where he was studying at the University to become a doctor. He belonged to USCA (Argentine Catholic Scouts Association) for ten years when he lived here with us. He is a good Catholic boy who does not belong to any political or leftist party. He has always been against communism and any kind of violence.

We still wonder why he has been kidnapped. We have personally been to different Government and Police offices and we have written letters and sent telegram to several high Government and Army Authorities but we have received no answer.

Unfortunately these kidnappings are rather frequent in our country and parents cannot find out their kidnapped children's whereabouts. That's why I address you this request.

I have been a member of the Bahía Blanca-Jacksonville Sister City Committee for the last 10 years because I have always believed that person-to-person contact in school, governmental, business and civic programs can pay off for our respective countries in terms of friendship, harmony and goodwill at a time when the world needs as much of this as it can get. I suppose this belief of mine is a consequence of my husband and myself having been teachers, as well as, principals in High Schools for a long time.

Thanking you in advance for whatever you can do for my son,

I remain,

Yours sincerely

Ana C. B. de Ricci
Mrs. Ana C. B. de Ricci